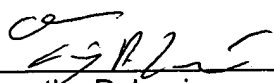


REMARKS

In an April 19, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner identified claims 4-12 as having allowable subject matter, and rejected claims 1-3 and 13-15. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's grounds for rejection, in the interest of expediting issuance of the claims having allowable subject matter, Applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, the rejected claims and reserve the right to prosecute these cancelled claims, and any unamended versions of presently amended claims, in a continuation of the present application. As a result, the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are moot.

By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 13-15 have been canceled. Allowed claims 4-12 are currently pending in this application. Please note that the cancellation of claims 1-3 and 13-15 is not being presented for reasons of patentability as defined in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000). As mentioned above, the claims are being canceled in order to expedite prosecution and to have other claims issued in a patent. The claims will be reprosecuted in a continuation application.

Respectfully submitted,



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